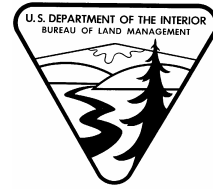




BLM News



Date: September 3, 2004

For Immediate Release

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BLM Seeks Public Comment on Land Disposal Study

LAS VEGAS - The Bureau of Land Management Las Vegas Field Office is seeking public comment on the Las Vegas Valley Disposal Boundary Environmental Impact Statement (LLVDB EIS). The report assesses the potential environmental impacts on 46,700 acres resulting from the sale, and potential uses and/or future development of these lands.

The public is invited to submit comments during the 60 day public comment period of September 10 through November 8, 2004. This comment period begins when the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes the Notice of Availability (NOA) in the Federal Register. The expected date of publication is September 10, 2004.

The BLM has scheduled a series of hearings to be held October 2004 to seek formal comments from the public. The hearings will provide an opportunity for the public to comment based on their review of the Draft EIS, and to share their concerns and comments as part of the official record.

The Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002 amended the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 by expanding the disposal boundary by approximately 22,000 acres.

The disposal boundary area was surveyed for potential desert tortoise habitat, Las Vegas buckwheat, Las Vegas bearpoppy, two-tone penstemon, mesquite and acacia habitat, cacti and yucca species, and other sensitive wildlife species. Phainopepla, western burrowing owls, Gila monsters, big horn sheep and kit foxes were also noted during the field surveys.

Surveyors also identified 100 archeological sites, 69 of which were newly recorded. One of the sites, the Tule Springs, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Approximately 24,900 acres were surveyed for paleontological resources. A total of 438 previously unrecorded paleontologic resource localities were identified. These fossils may answer important research questions about life during the Ice Ages in the Mohave Desert. The public hearing dates, locations, and times are:

October 18, 2004

BLM Las Vegas Field Office
4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr.
Las Vegas
5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

October 19, 2004

Henderson Convention Center
200 S. Water Street
Henderson
5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

October 20, 2004

North Las Vegas Library
2300 Civic Center Drive
North Las Vegas
5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Notification of hearings will appear in newspapers, and posted to the web, 15 days prior to the first meeting. To view the EIS, or for more information, please visit <http://www.nv.blm.gov/lvdiseis>, or visit the BLM Las Vegas Field Office located at 4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas. During the 60 day comment period electronic comments will be accepted via email at lvblmeis@pbsj.com.

For additional information please contact Jeff Steinmetz at (702) 515-5097.